

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. No claims have been amended, and no claims have been cancelled. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7, 11-12, 15, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bu (US 7,094,669).

With respect to claims 1, 11, and 17, Applicants respectfully submit that Bu (*supra*) is not available as a reference against the claimed invention. With this response, Applicants submit a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, swearing that the present invention was conceived of prior to January 23, 2004. Applicants further swear that following conception, they diligently and actively assisted in planning, preparing, reviewing, and filing the instant application. Therefore, the claimed invention antedates Bu, whose effective date is August 3, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 2-4, 7, 12, 15, and 19, Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned claims 2-4, 7, 12, 15, and 19 are allowable for reasons stated above relative to independent claims 1, 11, and 17, and for their own additional claimed subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) to claims 2-4, 7, 12, 15, and 19.

In the Office Action, claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bu (*supra*) in view of Cooney (2004/0018714); claims 8, 16, and 20 are

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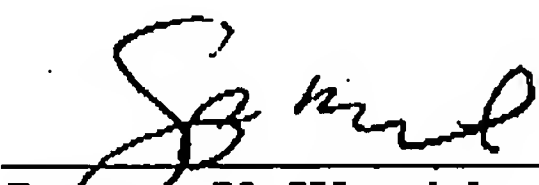
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rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bu (*supra*) in view of Cowley (US Pub 2004/0058526); claims 6, 14, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bu (*supra*) in view of Tsai (US Pub.2003/0077897); and claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bu (*supra*) in view of Te Velde (US 4,561,173). Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned claims 5-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16, 18, 20 are allowable for reasons stated above relative to independent claims 1, 11, and 17, and for their own additional claimed subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to claims 5-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16, 18, 20.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the Application as presented is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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1/31/07

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